

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM



Fast Facts

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ADDRESS VERIFICATION PROGRAM

The purpose of maintaining a registration list is to enable Selective Service to reach draft-age men in an emergency. When a man registers, Selective Service obtains both a current mailing address and a permanent residence address, and informs each registrant that he is required by law to report any changes in his address to Selective Service. Although a significant number of address changes are reported, registrants are highly mobile segment of the population. To actively ensure that registrants in the prime draft age group—19 and 20 years old—can be reached by mail in time of mobilization, the Address Verification Program was developed.

The program itself is very simple. Approximately 150,000 Verification Letters are sent each month to registrants in the prime draft group who have not had any activity on their files in the past thirteen months. The letters contain the most recent information on file and registrants are asked to verify the information and send back any changes to Selective Service. If the registrant has moved the U.S. Postal Service returns the letter to Selective Service with the registrant's forwarding address, if known. The information received—both from the registrant and from the U.S. Postal Service—is posted to the registrant's record and a new Registration Acknowledgment is sent to the registrant confirming the changes made in their record.

By using this approach to address maintenance, Selective Service ensures that the files are accurate and Selective Service can immediately reach the draft-eligible registrants in the event of a national emergency.



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ALIENS AND DUAL NATIONALS

Registration: Section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act requires the registration of “every male citizen of the United States, and every other male person residing in the United States” 18 through 25 years old. This section goes on to exempt from registration “any alien lawfully admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant.”

Nonimmigrant status applies to those legally admitted on student visas, visitor visas, members of diplomatic or trade missions and their families. The key word in this instance is the word “legally.” An illegal alien is not legally admitted as a nonimmigrant and therefore does not qualify for the exemption. An illegal alien male of the appropriate age group must register.

Aliens “residing in the United States” are not necessarily those who have been admitted as permanent residents. Parolees, refugees and applicants for asylum “residing in the United States” must register. An alien who does not reside in the United States, even though he may hold permanent resident status, does not have to register until he is physically residing in the United States.

Dual nationals of the United States and another country are required to register, regardless of where they live, because they are U.S. nationals.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) checks the registration status of male aliens applying for U.S. citizenship. Men who resided in the U.S. as immigrant aliens after reaching age 18 and before reaching age 26 must have registered with the Selective Service System as the law requires. If they failed to register, and have passed their 26th birthday, it is too late to register and they may be denied citizenship.

Liability for Service in a Draft: An alien or dual national has the same rights as any other registrant to request a postponement, deferment or exemption from service, or to seek status as a conscientious objector, in the event

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of a draft. There are also some special provisions which are only available to aliens.

- An alien who has not resided in the United States for a total of one year may not be accepted into the U.S. Armed Forces, but he must register with Selective Service.

- An alien who leaves United States prior to being issued an order to report for induction is exempt from service as long as he resides outside the U.S.

- An alien who registered when he was required to do so, but later acquired status in one of the groups exempt from registration may be exempted from military service.

- The United States has treaties or agreements with certain countries which provide that citizens or nationals of these countries may be exempted from U.S. military service. However, an alien who requests and is exempted under such treaty or agreement is automatically permanently barred from U.S. citizenship and, if he leaves the United States, may be denied admission into the United States.

- If an alien served at least 12 months in the armed forces of a country with which the United States is involved in mutual defense activities, he is eligible for the same classification as a man who has completed U.S. military service.

- Dual nationals may be exempted from U.S. military service if their other country of nationality has a treaty agreement with the United States providing for such an exemption.

In the event of a draft, claims for classification on the basis of alienage or dual nationality would be determined administratively by the area office. Such claims are based on documentary evidence and generally do not require the personal appearance of the registrant.

As is the case for all other registrants, anyone who is not deferred or exempted would have the final determination of his acceptability for service made by the armed forces. The alien's country of citizenship might well have a bearing on his acceptability for service, depending on the nature of the conflict and the role his country of citizenship played in the conflict.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The Alternative Service Program affects those persons whose conscientious objection encompasses both combatant and noncombatant military training and service. The program allows men who have been classified 1-0 by their local boards to fulfill their service obligation in a civilian capacity contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety or interest.

The Alternative Service Program is administered by the Alternative Service Offices which will be located in 48 major cities in the U. S. There is also a Civilian Review Board associated with each office which is composed of no less than three civilian volunteers. It is their responsibility to review certain appeals of job assignments by the Alternative Service Workers.

A major part of the contingency planning for Alternative Service is to identify agencies and associations which could assist the Selective Service System in placing conscientious objectors in suitable alternative service jobs. Examples of alternative service work are conservation, caring for the very young and the very old, educational projects and health care.

Conscientious objectors who are to be placed in the Alternative Service Program will be asked to describe their skills, aptitudes and interest in order to facilitate their placement. An attempt will be made to match the objector's skills and aptitudes to an eligible job, while at the same time ensuring that his service makes a meaningful contribution to the national interest. All assignments will be made within 30 days of reclassification to conscientious objector status.

Employers will be asked to describe their job openings and the qualifications of persons required to fill them. The employer may interview conscientious objectors before deciding to hire them, or he may leave the placement decision in the hands of the Alternative Service Office. In all cases, the employer and the Selective Service System must execute an agreement for the employment of conscientious objectors before any work assignments are made. All assignments will be made within 30 days of reclassification to conscientious objector status.

It is the policy of the Selective Service System to treat persons in the Alternative Service Program fairly and with dignity, and to assign them to positions which will make genuine contributions to the national health, safety or interest.



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APPEAL BOARDS

The registrant appeal process begins when a registrant is dissatisfied with his Local Board's decision about his reclassification request and initiates an appeal. The first line of appeal is to the District Appeal Board. In the case of non-unanimous decisions of the District Appeal Board, the registrant may appeal to the President through the National Appeal Board.

The National Director and State Directors of Selective Service may also take appeals to a District Appeal Board to ensure fair and equitable administration of Selective Service law and regulations.

District Appeal Boards are located in each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and Virgin Islands. The law requires at least one such board within the area of each federal judicial district in the United States and within each territory and possession. Members, who are uncompensated civilian volunteers, are appointed by the Director of Selective Service in the name of the President. Each is a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, not an active or retired member of the Armed Forces or any reserve component of the Armed Forces, a resident of the geographical area in the Federal judicial district over which his or her particular board has jurisdiction, and meets all of the other membership requirements of the law and regulations.

Non-unanimous decisions of the District Appeal Boards may be appealed to the President for determination by the National Appeal Board. Appeals may be taken by the registrant or the same Selective Service personnel identified in taking appeals to the District Appeal Boards. The three-member National Appeal Board is the final appeal authority.

Members of the National Appeal Board are citizens of the United States, at least 18 years of age, are not active or retired members of the Armed Forces or of any reserve component of the Armed Forces, and meet all of the other established requirements.



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BACKGROUND OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

The Selective Service System is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the federal government. The Director of Selective Service is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

The legislation under which this agency operates is the Military Selective Service Act. Under this law, the mission of the Selective Service System is twofold: to deliver untrained manpower to the armed forces in time of emergency in accordance with requirements established by the Department of Defense, and to administer the alternative service program for conscientious objectors.

A system of conscription was used during the Civil War and again during World War I with the draft mechanism in both instances being dissolved at the end of hostilities. In 1940, prior to U.S. entry into World War II, the first peacetime draft in our nation's history was enacted in response to increased world tension and the system was able to fill wartime manpower needs smoothly and rapidly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. At the end of the war the draft law was allowed to expire, but it was reenacted less than two years later to maintain necessary military manpower levels as a result of the Cold War. From 1948 until 1973, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the armed forces which could not be filled through voluntary means. Induction authority expired in 1973, but the Selective Service System remained in existence in a "standby" posture to support the all-volunteer force in case an emergency should make it necessary for Congress to authorize a resumption of inductions.

Registration was suspended early in 1975 and the Selective Service System entered into a "deep standby" posture. Beginning in late 1979, a series of "revitalization" efforts were begun in an effort to upgrade the System's capability for rapid mobilization in an emergency, and in the summer of 1980 the registration requirement was resumed. Presently, young men must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

The Military Selective Service Act, along with its implementing regulations, provides that the structure of the agency will include a National Headquarters, a State Headquarters in each state, plus one for New York City,

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one for the District of Columbia, one for Guam, one for Puerto Rico, and one for the Virgin Islands. The Act and regulations also provide for local boards, allocated according to county or corresponding political subdivisions. There is also a provision for Appeal Boards, which cover the same areas served by federal judicial districts plus a National Appeal Board. The Appeal Boards act in cases of persons who do not agree with the decisions of the Local Boards.

The approximately 185 full-time paid employees of the Selective Service System are primarily civilians hired under the rules prescribed by the Officer of Personnel Management (formerly U.S. Civil Service Commission). There are approximately 14 active duty military reserve officers assigned to Selective Service to provide liaison with the military services and administer the Selective Service Reserve Forces program. These reserve forces are composed of approximately 520 National Guard and Reserve officers who are assigned to Selective Service for their monthly drills and two-week active duty training sessions each year. In the event of an emergency, these officers could be called to active duty to augment the full-time staff.

The present structure of the agency consists of the National Headquarters, Data Management Center, and three Region Headquarters. State and local offices were closed in 1976 and would be reactivated only if inductions should be resumed.

In the event of a mobilization, Selective Service Reserve Forces Officers would be called to active duty to establish State Headquarters and Area Offices at predetermined locations, and at the same time the Local and Appeal Boards would be activated. A lottery drawing would be conducted to determine the order in which men would be called, and induction orders would be issued, in lottery number order, by means of Western Union Mailgrams. The first priority group would consist of men in the calendar year of their 20th birthday. Registrants receiving induction orders would either report to the Military Entrance Processing Station for examination and possible immediate induction, or file a claim for postponement, deferment or exemption from military service. Such claims would be considered by the Area Office or the Local Board, depending on the nature of the claim. Agency mobilization plans are designed to meet the needs of the Department of Defense.

BOARD MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

An important component of the Selective Service System are the citizen volunteers who comprise the Local Boards, District and National Appeal Boards and Civilian Review Boards. Local Boards, District Appeal board and Civilian Review Board members are appointed by the Director of Selective Service after being recommended for their respective positions. National Appeal Board members are appointed directly by the President of the United States. However, no matter who appoints these board members, they are all chosen using a set of guidelines. This ensures that the most competent individuals for the job are appointed.

All four boards have several guidelines in common. Board members must be: citizens of the United States; at least 18 years of age; not an active or retired member of the Armed Forces or any reserve component of the Armed Forces; able to devote sufficient time to board affairs; and willing to fairly and uniformly apply Selective Service law, regulations and procedures.

In addition, each board has several unique requirements:

(1) National Appeal Board members cannot have served as a member of the board for an accumulative period of more than five years.

(2) District Appeal Board members must be residents of the federal judicial district geographical area over which the board has jurisdiction and they cannot have served as a member of a Selective Service board for an accumulative period of more than 20 years.

(3) Local Board and Civilian Review Board members must be residents of the county or political subdivision in which the board has jurisdiction and they cannot have served as a member of a Selective Service board for an accumulative period of more than 20 years.

Local Board, District Appeal Board and Civilian Review Board members may not be employed by a public or private enterprise to handle Selective Service matters or hold a position in private or public enterprise with duties that would be incompatible with the duties of their respective boards.

Individuals who are interested in becoming members of a Selective Service board, other than the National Appeal Board, must apply for the position and be interviewed before they are considered for appointment.



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CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

All young men turning 18 must register with Selective Service including those who would be likely to qualify for classification as conscientious objectors. Because there is no draft, Selective Service does not classify registrants at this time. If classification is resumed, a registrant who has been ordered for induction will be given an opportunity at that time to make a claim for classification as a conscientious objector. Once a local board receives such a claim, a young man's induction would be postponed while the validity of the claim was being decided by the board.

In order to qualify for classification as a conscientious objector, a young man must be conscientiously opposed to participation in all wars - not a selective objection to a particular war. Beliefs must be religious, moral or ethical in nature, as opposed to beliefs based solely on politics, expediency or self-interest.

A registrant's claim for classification as a conscientious objector must include a statement of his beliefs, how he arrived at them, and the influence they have on how he lives his life, setting forth the depth and sincerity of his convictions. He is also permitted to include letters from persons who know him well and can attest to his beliefs.

During periods of induction a conscientious objector is not relieved of his obligation to serve. There are two types of service which may be performed, depending upon the individual's specific beliefs. A person who is opposed to any form of military service is required to perform a period of civilian service equal to the length of time inductees serve in the military in a job which contributes to the national health, safety or interest, as determined by the Director of Selective Service. The person whose beliefs allow him to serve in the Armed Forces in a noncombatant capacity becomes a member of the Armed Forces and would be assigned to noncombatant duties and would not receive any training in the use of weapons.



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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SELECTIVE SERVICE TODAY AND DURING VIETNAM

The Agency has changed dramatically since the 1970s. A series of reforms during the latter part of the Vietnam conflict changed the way the draft operated. If a draft were held today it would be the most equitable draft in history:

If a draft were held today there would be fewer reasons to excuse a man from service.

Before Congress reformed the draft in 1971, a man could qualify for a student deferment if he could show he was a full-time student making satisfactory progress in virtually any field of study. He could continue to go to school and be deferred from service until he was too old to be drafted. Under the new draft law, a college student could have his induction postponed only until the end of the current semester. A senior could be postponed until the end of the full academic year.

If a draft were held today, local boards would better represent the communities they serve.

The changes in the new draft law made in 1971 included the provision that membership on the boards was required to be as representative as possible of the racial and ethnic background of the area served by the board.

Before 1971, state and local boards used a "quota system" under which they assigned a certain number of men to the draft. Because the boards determined who would be drafted, there were instances when personal relationships and favoritism played a part in deciding who would be drafted. Today, the Uniform National Call ensures that men will be treated the same, no matter which board they are assigned to.

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A draft held today would use a lottery to determine the order of call.

Before the lottery was implemented in the latter part of the Vietnam conflict, there was no system in place to determine order of call besides the fact that men between the ages of 18 and 26 were vulnerable to being drafted. This lack of a system resulted in uncertainty for the potential draftees during the entire time they were within the draft-eligible age group. All throughout a young man's early 20's he did not know if he would be drafted. A draft held today would use a lottery system under which a man would spend only one year in first priority for the draft—either the calendar year he turned 20 or the year his deferment ended, whichever came first. If he was not drafted in his first priority year, he dropped into second priority. In this way he would be spared the uncertainty of waiting until his 26th birthday to be certain he would not be drafted.

If a draft were held today, a registrant would be guaranteed a personal appearance before his board if he wanted to appeal his classification.

Before 1971, a draftee was not guaranteed this right, and so some decisions about whether a man would be drafted were made based on paperwork. Today, if a man wanted to appeal to his Local Board for an exemption or deferment, he could speak to them directly.

DRAFT CARDS

Is Selective Service issuing draft cards?

No. A card-style proof of registration is being issued, but it has nothing to do with the draft. No one has been drafted since 1973, and it would require an act of Congress to reinstate the draft.

Most Americans over the age of 30 remember the "draft card" which Selective Service issued to each man at the time he registered. For many years there were in fact two cards: the Registration Certificate and the Notice of Classification. When Selective Service began to store records on computer tapes in the early 1970s the two cards were combined into one computer-generated Status Card. At no time was the card officially titled "draft card," but it was by this colloquial name that the proof of registration was usually known.

Selective Service Regulations required each registrant to have his card in his possession at all times. This requirement was removed from the regulations in late 1974, shortly before registration was suspended, and it has not been reinstituted.

When registration was resumed in 1980, the matter of issuing some type of "draft card" was carefully studied. Based on previous experience, the decision was made to issue a Registration Acknowledgment to registrants as evidence of their registration and not to require that the proof of registration be carried.

With the passage of the Solomon Amendment linking registration to federal student aid, the Job Training Partnership Act making registration a requirement for receiving training benefits, the Thurmond Amendment requiring registration as a prerequisite for appointment to federal employment, and numerous provisions in connection with local employment standards, it became evident that many registrants might need proof of registration in a form which was convenient to carry. Therefore, the Registration Acknowledgment was modified in 1983 so that all personal information about the registrant would be printed in a wallet-size box. The registrant may detach and carry it in his wallet if he wishes, as a convenience to him, but he is not required to do so.

When the new version of the Registration Acknowledgment came into use, there were some allegations that the issuance of cards was the first step toward a resumption of the draft. That is not so. The "card" is simply for the convenience of the registrant. It is important to keep in mind that only Congress can authorize a draft - regardless of whether or not some form of card is being issued. Nothing in the law, regulations or operating procedures makes the issuance of cards a necessary step in the resumption of induction authority.



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EFFECTS OF MARRIAGE AND FATHERHOOD ON DRAFT ELIGIBILITY

After World War II to Today

If Congress and the President were to reinstate a military draft, Selective Service procedures currently in place would not treat married registrants, or those with a dependent child, any differently from men who are single. Regardless of marital or parental status, a man who will turn 20 years old during a year when a draft is in operation, and whose birthday draws a low lottery number, will probably receive a draft notice. Being married or being a parent will not, by itself, be grounds for a III-A "hardship to dependents" deferment, nor will it place a man in a lower priority of call.

Consideration given to a man's marital or parental status in a draft has varied since the Second World War:

Paternity Deferments—

- Under the Selective Service Act of 1948, Executive Order 9988 (April 22, 1948) provided that husbands who maintained a *bona fide* family relationship with their wives or children were deferred in Class III-A. But on September 25, 1951, Executive Order 10292 changed the status of childless husbands. They were no longer deferrable in Class III-A, except in cases where they could prove that their induction would cause extreme hardship for their dependents. Fathers maintaining a *bona fide* family relationship with a child continued to be deferred in class III-A (paternity deferments).

- Executive Order 10469, July 11, 1953, did away with paternity deferments, except for those men who filed evidence showing paternity before August 25, 1953. Men whose induction would cause extreme hardship to dependents could still qualify for a Class III-A deferment.

- From March 14, 1963 to April 23, 1970, the III-A classification was broadened to include all men who were fathers. President Kennedy issued Executive Order 11098 on March 14, 1963, to expand entitlement to this paternity deferment. For a man to qualify for a III-A deferment as a "Kennedy father," there had to be a "bona fide

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family relationship in their home" between the father and child. The definition of a man's "child" in the regulations of the period included "a legitimate or illegitimate child from the date of its conception." Therefore, the III-A classification could be granted during his wife's (or significant other's) pregnancy. The III-A classification also remained available to men, married or single, whose induction would be a hardship to their dependents.

- Eligibility for the III-A classification on the basis of paternity ended in 1970. President Nixon issued Executive Order 11527 on April 23, 1970, which terminated the availability of the Class III-A paternity deferment for new fathers if the child was conceived on or after that date. Class III-A remained available for fathers of children conceived prior to that date, and for men who could prove hardship to dependents.

Effects of Marital Status on Induction Priority—

- Executive Order 10001 (September 17, 1948) provided that men in Class I-A or I-A-O would be selected for induction in the order of their dates of birth, with the oldest being selected first.

- On February 15, 1956, Executive Order 10659 made changes in the order of induction within Class I-A or I-A-O. Men who were married but did not have children were selected for induction in the same order as single men. Men who became fathers after August 25, 1953, had a lower priority of call within Class I-A or I-A-O. They could only be called after men without children (single or married, 19-26, oldest first).

- Executive Order 11119 (September 10, 1963) changed Selective Service System regulations. Married men without children were placed **one step lower** in the order of call than single men. The local boards were then required to select men for induction in the following order: delinquents, volunteers, and I-A single men (19-26, oldest first), before calling these "Kennedy husbands."

- The effect of a man's marital status on his draft priority was further modified by President Johnson's Executive Order 11241 in 1965. It provided that men who married on or after August 26, 1965, and had no children, were again **considered the same as single men in Class I-A** with regard to the order of call. However, childless men married prior to that date remained in the fourth order of call in Class I-A in accordance with the "Kennedy husband" rule. They could be drafted only after all delinquents, volunteers, and single and newly married men (19-26, oldest first) in Class I-A were selected for induction. President Johnson did not change eligibility for the III-A classification, which still applied to fathers and to men who proved hardship to dependents.

- Assigning different priorities of call for men within Class I-A on the basis of their being single or married ended with an amendment to Selective Service System regulations (38 *Federal Register* 13485) on May 23, 1973. Marital status alone no longer affected priority of draft call. Unless revised by Congress or a change in Selective Service System regulations, these rules would apply in a future draft.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID, JOB TRAINING BENEFITS AND FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

Three measures enacted by Congress link Selective Service registration to eligibility for certain federal benefits. The legislative intent was to increase public awareness of the registration requirement and to ensure that recipients of federal funds were in compliance with the law. The student aid and job training benefits have become known as the "Solomon Amendments" after Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY), who introduced the bills.

Public Law 97-252, signed on September 8, 1982, provides that persons required to register with Selective Service be in compliance before receiving student financial aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Included are the popular Pell Grants and Guaranteed Student Loans. Applicants are asked to sign a statement of compliance which is part of the application form for financial aid.

An agreement between the Department of Education and the Selective Service System signed in January 1986 provides for computer matching of Pell Grant applicants and recipients with Selective Service's registrant file. The names of suspected nonregistrants are furnished to the Department of Education for action.

On October 13, 1982, Public Law 97-300 amended the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to impose similar requirements on applicants for job training. The basic provisions of this amendment also require registration as a condition of eligibility. However, because of differences in the two programs, the method of implementing the JTPA is different from that for Title IV student aid.

Job training benefits do not involve any payment of money to the applicant - the agency furnishing the training receives the funds. Therefore, only the training agency can be held financially liable if the applicant does not meet all the eligibility requirements.

To protect the training agencies, most procedures require applicants of registration age to furnish written proof or verbal verification of their registration from Selective Service rather than simply signing a statement of compliance.

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Selective Service and the Department of Labor are attempting to assist applicants in obtaining the proof they need to apply for job training benefits. Men not yet registered can fill out registration forms at most job training centers as part of the application process. Men who have misplaced the proof of registration (Selective Service Acknowledgment Letter) may obtain a duplicate by contacting Selective Service, either by mail or by calling, 847-688-6888. This service is available to anyone who is in need of verification of registration.

On November 8, 1985, President Reagan signed Public Law 99-145 which is commonly known as the Thurmond Amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill. Offered by Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), this law denies appointment to federal jobs to men who are required to register but who have not registered with Selective Service. This law not only applies to men seeking permanent employment, but also to young men seeking temporary summer employment with a federal agency or department.

The intent of this legislation is twofold. First, it is intended to increase public awareness of the registration requirement. And, second, it ensures that recipients of federal funds (federal paychecks) are in compliance with the law. The Office of Personnel Management administers the provisions of these regulations.

FORM 1 PROCESSING

When a young man reaches 18 he goes to any of the 35,000 post offices nationwide to register with Selective Service. There he completes a simple registration card and gives it to the postal clerk. This begins a multi-step process which results in the man's registration.

Each week post offices mail 30,000-40,000 completed registration cards to the Selective Service System Data Management System (DMC) near Chicago, Ill. At the DMC these cards are grouped into manageable quantities. Each card is then microfilmed and stamped with a sequential document locator number. The processed microfilm is reviewed to account for all documents and to ensure that the film quality is within strict standards. After microfilming, the cards are keyed and then verified by a different data transcriber.

Magnetic tapes, containing all information keyed from the registration cards, are produced for processing by the computer center. The registration records go through a series of computer validation checks resulting in either registration or placement onto a computerized error file. If the computer accepts all the information, the registrant is issued an acknowledgment of registration. If an error is detected at any point in processing the information is reprocessed or a letter is sent to the registrant requesting clarification.

All processing follows a published schedule. The time required to process a registration, from the date the registration form is completed at the post office, to the date the acknowledgment of registration is generated, averages 27 days. Regulations and mobilization readiness require that processing take no more than 90 days.

Updating this data base requires continual changes and maintenance to remain accurate and usable. Over one million changes, mostly to addresses, are processed each year. The majority of the changes come from the registrants themselves who call or write with updated information.



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HOW TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM SELECTIVE SERVICE

The Selective Service System, and the registration requirement for young men, preserve America's ability to provide manpower to the U.S. Armed Forces in an emergency. Here is a summary of how to obtain public information.

AN INDIVIDUAL'S SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER

To obtain your own or someone else's Selective Service number, call the Agency at (847) 688-6888. Your call will be answered by an automated voice processing system. You must know the individual's Social Security number and date of birth to use this system.

PROOF OF REGISTRATION

A registration acknowledgment card will arrive in the mail about 30 to 90 days after a man completes and signs a registration card.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment card within 90 days of registering, or if you require a replacement acknowledgment card, please call Selective Service at (847) 688-6888. Your call will be answered by an automated voice processing system. Listen carefully to the directions and select the option for receiving your own Selective Service number.

WORLD WIDE WEB HOMEPAGE

<http://www.sss.gov>

Information available on the Selective Service System's site includes: text of the Agency's 1996 Annual Report to Congress, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, a Selective Service "registration form" where viewers may initiate a registration on-line, how to register, what happens if a man doesn't register, what happens if there is a draft, and available publications.

INDUCTION STATISTICS AND OTHER HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Some of this information is available on the Agency's website at <http://www.sss.gov>.

More detailed information is made available to the public in the Selective Service System's Annual Reports to Congress, which have been issued annually or semiannually since 1940. These are available at Federal Depository Libraries nationwide. Ask your local library for the address of a Depository Library nearest you.

FOIA REGULATIONS AND ANNUAL REPORT

Freedom of Information Act regulations can be found in 36 CFR 1662. A copy can be obtained by writing to: The Records Division, Selective Service System, National Headquarters, 1515 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Va. 22209-2425.

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To obtain a copy of the Selective Service System's FOIA Annual Report, please also write to the address in the preceding paragraph.

GILS - Government Information Locator Service

A way to identify, locate and describe publicly available Federal information resources, including electronic information resources. Each GILS record provides a thorough description of the information resource, including what information is available and why it was created; how the information is made available for use; who to contact for further information; and, in some cases, a direct electronic link to the information itself. Selective Service GILS information can be obtained on our GILS page at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/gils/gils.html.

RECORDS

The Selective Service System is able to provide information from records kept on men currently registered with Selective Service, as well as on men who were registrants as far back as World War II.

The Agency carefully follows the provisions of the Privacy Act and will not release a registrant's home address, phone number, Social Security number, or any other protected information without the express consent of the registrant.

The following records are available:

Records of registrants who were born on or before March 29, 1957.*

Classification Record

Description: Shows a registrant's name, Local Board number, his classifications and the dates he received the classifications. A registrant's classification usually indicates whether or not he was drafted.

How to Obtain a Copy: The classification record is public information which is available to anyone who asks for it. Requesters must provide the registrant's full name, date of birth, and address at the time of registration (usually when the registrant was 18 years old). Call (703) 605-4047, or write to: The Records Division, Selective Service National Headquarters, Arlington, Va. 22209-2425. Members of the news media should call (703) 605-4100.

Registration Card

Description: Shows a registrant's name, date of birth, home address, and Selective Service registration number. May include additional information like a phone number and/or marital status.

How to Obtain a Copy: The registration card is protected under the Privacy Act. To obtain a copy, a requester must be the registrant or show written permission from the registrant. If the registrant is deceased, provide a copy of the registrant's death certificate. Also provide the registrant's full name, date of birth, and address at the time of registration. Call (703) 605-4047, or write to: The Records Division, Selective Service National Headquarters, Arlington, Va. 22209-2425.

Records of registrants who were born on or after January 1, 1960

Registration Card

Description: Shows a registrant's name, date of birth, home address, phone number, Social Security number and Selective Service Registration number.

How to Obtain a Copy: Must be the registrant for whom the card is requested, or show written permission from the registrant, or provide proof that the registrant is deceased. A caller may verify that a man is registered and/or obtain a registrant's Selective Service number and the date he registered by calling the Agency at (847) 688-6888 and providing the registrant's Social Security number and date of birth. The information may also be obtained by writing to: Selective Service Data Management Center, P.O. Box 94638, Palatine, Illinois, 60094-4638.

** Men born from March 29, 1957 to December 31, 1959 were never required to register because the registration program was not in operation at the time they turned 18. The requirement to register was reinstated in 1980 and applies to all men born on or after January 1, 1960.*

HOW WOULD SELECTIVE SERVICE CONDUCT A RETURN TO CONSCRIPTION?

When the all-volunteer force was established, it was not intended to stand alone in time of national emergency. If, by law, it is determined that a return to the draft is required, the Selective Service System would be responsible for supplying manpower through the induction process to fill vacancies that could not be filled through voluntary enlistments.

In the event of a return to conscription, the Selective Service System would expand significantly. Its Reserve Forces Officers would be called to active duty to establish State Headquarters and Area Offices at predetermined locations, and at the same time approximately 2,000 Local and Appeal Boards would be activated throughout the nation, staffed by 11,000 volunteers. Computer links between all Agency locations would be activated. Current planning is based on the a Department of Defense requirement which requires the first inductees about six months after notification. Selective Service is also capable of providing inductees with special skills, such as health care personnel, after authorizing legislation is passed by Congress and a draft is ordered by the President.

An early step in the resumption of the inductions process would be to hold a lottery, sequencing dates of birth by random drawing, to determine the order in which registrants of prime draft age would be called for processing for induction. For a conventional draft of "untrained" manpower, a man is in the first priority group for a possible draft during the calendar year of his 20th birthday. Beginning January 1 of the year he turns 21 he would drop into the second priority category, and men born the year after he was born would move into the first priority group. Each succeeding year, a draft eligible man drops into the next lower priority group until he has reached his 26th birthday, at which time he is over the age of liability for the draft.

Registrants facing possible induction would first be ordered to report for examination to establish their acceptability for military service. Those found acceptable will have the opportunity to file a claim for postpone-ment, deferment, or exemption from military service prior to receiving an induction order. The Agency would also administer an Alternative Service Program for men classified as conscientious objectors who are required to perform such service in lieu of serving in the military.

Current plans are frequently tested, evaluated, and revised as necessary. If implemented, they will guide the Selective Service System in making a smooth transition from current reduced readiness levels to full conscription within six months.



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LOCAL BOARDS

The nation's over 2,000 Selective Service local boards are composed of citizen-volunteers appointed by the President from nominations made by their respective state governors. These citizens are representative of their communities racially and ethnically, with appointment statistics showing a close parallel with the 1980 census relating to minority. The boards serve as the local decision-making body with respect to determining availability for service should Congress enact induction authority.

Each five-member board is responsible for a specific geographic area. Based on population density, these areas range from the urban neighborhood consisting of only one or two postal zip code areas to huge expanses of land spanning as many as five rural counties. These men and women literally represent every corner of the nation, from remote St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea (only 50 miles from Russia) to Charlotte Amalie in the Virgin Islands.

In the event of a national emergency, young men would be selected by lottery and mailed an induction order. Some would file claims for deferment or exemption from military service; their requests for placement in certain deferred or exempt classes would be considered by the members of their local board.

To ensure a uniform application of the law and regulations, and to reinforce the assurance of fairness and equity, each board member undergoes comprehensive training. An initial twelve-hour course at a central location is administered by specially trained instructors and each member is provided a handbook containing reference material. Each year thereafter, a continuation training session is held in which each board convenes and considers sample case files similar to a real life situation. Board members receive newsletters each year informing them of the current status of the Military Selective Service Act, applicable case law, regulations, and other interpretive guidance. These publications aid in maintaining a high level of mobilization readiness, enabling members to assume their roles on operational local boards should the need ever again arise.



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THE SELECTIVE SERVICE LOTTERY

If and when the Congress and the President reinstate a military draft, the Selective Service System would conduct a National Draft Lottery to determine the order in which young men would be drafted.

The lottery would establish the priority of call based on the birth dates of registrants. The first men drafted would be those turning age 20 during the calendar year of the lottery. For example, if a draft were held in 1995, those men born in 1975 would be considered first. If a young man turns 21 in the year of the draft, he would be in the second priority, in turning 22 he would be in the third priority, and so forth until the year in which he turns 26 at which time he is over the age of liability. Younger men would not be called in that year until men in the 20-25 age group are called.

Because of the enormous impact of this lottery, it would be conducted publicly, with full coverage by the media. Accredited observers from public interest groups will have full access to observe the proceedings.

To make the lottery as fair as possible, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) developed a unique random calendar and number selection program for Selective Service. Using this random selection method for birthdays, each day of the year is selected by computer in a random manner, and that date is placed in a capsule. The capsules are then loaded in a large drum on a random basis. By the same method, numbers from 1 to 365 (366 for men born in a leap year) are also selected in a random fashion, placed in capsules, and the capsules are placed into a second drum. The process, repeated a second time, results in two sets of drums. Official observers certify that the capsule-filling and drum-loading were conducted according to established procedures. This certification is secured to each drum; they are sealed and placed in secure storage. Should a lottery be conducted, one of the first actions would be an inspection of these stored drums and the selection of a set to be used in the lottery.

Here is how the lottery would work: One capsule is drawn from the drum containing birth dates January 1 through December 31. One capsule is then drawn from the drum containing the sequence numbers from 1 through 365 (366 if the draft will call men born during a leap year) and the date and number are paired to establish the sequence number for each birth date. This is done in full view of all observers, officials, and the media.

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For example, if the date of August 4 is drawn first from the “date” drum, and the sequence number of 32 is drawn from the “number’s” drum at the same time, then those men turning 20 on August 4 would be ordered for induction processing only after men whose birthdays drew sequence numbers 1 through 31. The drawings continue until all 365 (or 366) birthdays of the year are paired with a sequence number.

After the lottery is completed and results certified, the sequence of call is transmitted to the Selective Service System’s Data Management Center. Almost immediately the first induction notices are prepared and sent via mailgram to men whose birth dates drew the lowest lottery numbers.

This system, based on random selection of birth dates, with the order of priority for reporting assigned in a scientifically random manner, is a fair and equitable method of calling men to serve.

MEDICAL DRAFT IN STANDBY MODE

The Health Care Personnel Delivery System (HCPDS) is a standby plan developed for the Selective Service System at the request of Congress. If needed it would be used to draft health care personnel in a crisis. It is designed to be implemented in connection with a national mobilization in an emergency, and then only if Congress and the President approve the plan and pass and sign legislation to enact it. No portion of the plan is designed for implementation in peacetime. If implemented, HCPDS would:

- Provide a fair and equitable draft of doctors, nurses, medical technicians and those with certain other health care skills if, in some future emergency, the military's existing medical capability proved insufficient and there is a shortage of volunteers.
- Include women, unless directed otherwise by Congress and the President.
- Draft a very small percentage of America's health care providers into military service. Impact on the availability of civilian health care would be minimal. Those health-care workers whose absence would seriously hurt their communities would be deferred on the basis of community essentiality.
- Begin a mass registration of male and female health care workers between the ages of 20 and 45. They would register at local post offices. HCPDS would provide medical personnel from a pool of 3.4 million doctors, nurses, specialists and allied health professionals in more than 60 fields of medicine.
- Require minimal training for HCPDS draftees, because they are already skilled personnel.



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MEN REACHING AGE 26

The Military Selective Service Act requires all men to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday, but they may register through age 26.

A man, once he turns 26, is ineligible to register. By failing to register before turning 26, a man generally will have permanently forfeited his right to certain benefits including federal student aid, job training and federal employment. In addition to these federal benefits, some states require registration for state student aid, entrance to a state supported college or university, state employment and permission to practice law.

Not only will a man be denied eligibility for programs and jobs by not registering, he is also committing a crime. Failure to register is a felony punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or five years in jail.

Many 25-year-olds who have not registered may be unaware of the requirement to register or do not understand the consequences of failing to register. Some may even have served in the military but failed to register. In 1986 a statutory provision was added to clarify that a non-registrant is not to be denied any federal benefit if he can demonstrate that his failure to register was not knowing and willful. The provision was added so that a man with an obvious disqualifying handicap, such as total paralysis of limbs or a man who has been honorably discharged from the armed services, who believed that he was not required to register, would not be penalized. Congress believed it would be unfair to penalize men who honestly believe they did not have an obligation to register because of such handicaps or because they had been members of the armed forces.

Men who have failed to register, who are over age 26, and are seeking government benefits tied to the registration requirement, must "show by the preponderance of evidence that their failure to register was not knowing and willful." It is important to note that the Selective Service System does not make this determination. Rather, a non-registrant must present his evidence to the official representing the agency from which the benefit or program eligibility is sought (e.g., a college financial aid official, or government agency hiring official in the case of job eligibility).

A man is eligible to register up until his 26th birthday. Once he has passed this milestone he has forfeited forever his ability to comply with this federal law.

** Young men born from March 29, 1957 to December 31, 1959 were never required to register because registration was not required at the time they turned 18.*



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POSTPONEMENTS, DEFERMENTS, EXEMPTIONS

A **high school student** may have his induction postponed until he graduates or reaches age 20, whichever occurs first. **College students** may be postponed until the end of the semester. If they are in their last academic year, they may be postponed until the end of that academic year.

A **registrant automatically gets his induction delayed if he files a claim for reclassification**. He is also entitled to file for a postponement if he is a student or if he has an emergency beyond his control, such as a serious illness or death in his immediate family.

Under emergency mobilization procedures, all registrants are considered to be classified 1-A "available for service" unless they are given a different status by Selective Service. If a registrant believes that for some reason he cannot or should not report for examination and induction as directed, he may request a postponement or reclassification by filing a claim and sending it to the Selective Service office in his area. Receipt of such a claim delays the registrant's induction until his claim has been fully processed and adjudicated.

A registrant can file a claim only after receipt of an order to report for induction and before the day he is scheduled to report. Only in the case of an extreme emergency, under circumstances beyond his control, would a registrant be allowed to file a claim on the day he is scheduled to report for induction.

It will not be necessary for the registrant to submit supporting evidence of his claim at the time he files the request form. He will be contacted and given instructions on what information is needed, where to send it, and when it should be sent.

The following classification categories would be available under present operating procedures:

— **Conscientious objectors** perform service to the nation in a manner consistent with their moral, ethical or religious opposition to participation in war in any form. Depending upon the nature of his beliefs, a conscientious objector serves either in a noncombatant capacity in the armed forces or in a civilian job contributing to the national interest.

— **Surviving sons or brothers** in a family where the parent or sibling died as a result of U.S. military service, or is in a captured or missing in action status, are exempt from service in peacetime.

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— **Hardship** deferments are available for men whose induction would result in hardship to persons who depend upon them for support.

— **Members of Reserve components** (including the National Guard and advanced level ROTC cadets who have already signed a Reserve contract) are eligible for a separate classification and perform their military service in the National Guard or the Reserves.

— **Ministers** are exempted from service.

— **Ministerial students** are deferred from service until they complete their studies.

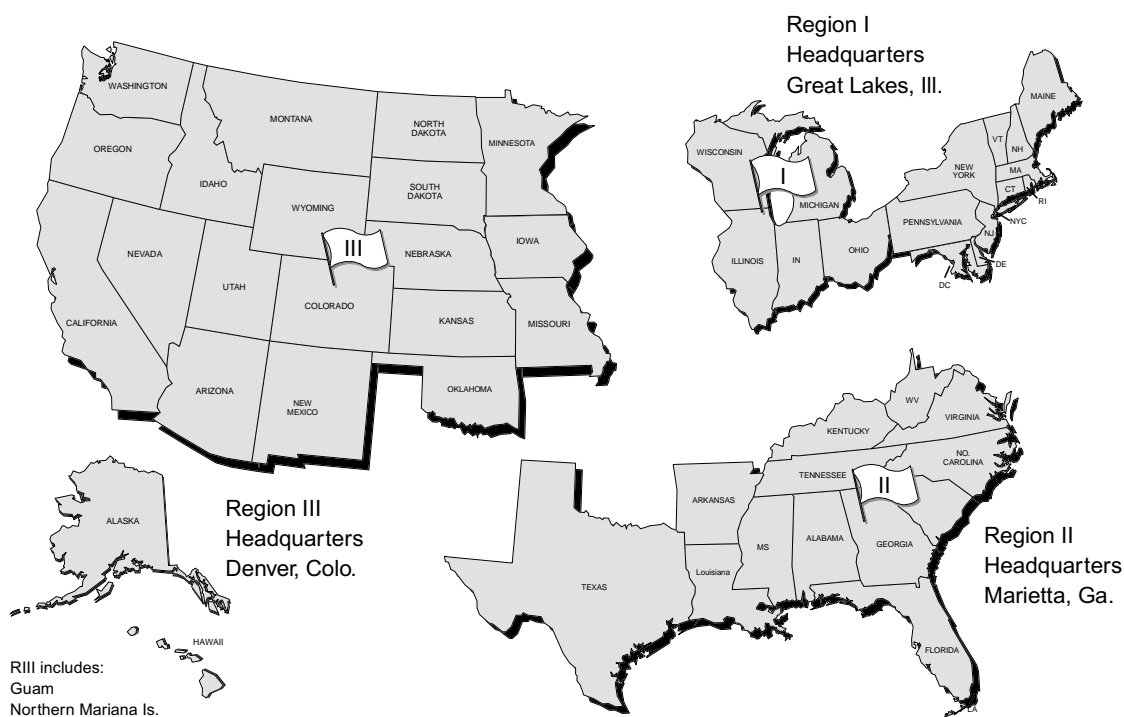
— **Certain elected officials** are exempt from service as long as they continue to hold office.

— **Veterans** generally are exempt from service in peacetime.

— **Aliens and dual nationals** in some cases may be exempt from U.S. military service depending upon their place of residence and country of citizenship.

REGIONS AND REGION DIRECTORS

The Selective Service System has three Regions nationwide to handle Agency business in and implement national policy in each respective area. Each Region Headquarters is headed by a Region Director and has a small full-time staff of seven to ten employees. The Region Headquarters are all located at military facilities. Geographic boundaries and locations of the Headquarters are shown on the following map.



Six Regions were established in 1981, after the Selective Service System was revitalized. In August 1994, they were consolidated to form the three Regions shown on the above map. The Regions are responsible for keeping the Local Boards within their jurisdictions at full strength. In addition, they coordinate training of all Board Members. The Selective Service has more than 2,000 Local and Appeal Boards, comprised of 11,000 volunteer

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civilian Board Members nationwide. In the event of a draft, Local and Appeal Boards would be mobilized to form the "backbone" of the Agency. Board members would decide draft deferments and exemptions based upon claims filed by the young men who are selected for induction.

The Regions also administer and conduct the training of hundreds of Reserve Force Officers (RFOs) assigned to Selective Service in their Regions. The Selective Service System has approximately 640 National Guard and Reserve officers authorized. They are members of every branch of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces, with the exception of the Air National Guard. RFOs perform 48 drills and two weeks of Annual Training per year. This part-time cadre of military officers is paid by the respective military service component; however, the individual services are reimbursed for most costs incurred, including RFO travel, pay, and benefit expenses. The reservists' jobs are to train and be ready in the case of a return to the draft, to assist in improving on-time registration of young men in America's communities, and to conduct training for Board Members. In the event of a draft, RFOs would open and staff more than 400 Selective Service System Area Offices, be assigned to State headquarters, and serve as liaison officers at Military Entrance Processing Stations.

RFO assignments and activities are controlled by each Region Headquarters, headed by a Region Director. All the current Region Directors are reserve military officers on active duty tours. They are selected competitively from among all branches of the Armed Forces, including the U.S. Coast Guard. The Agency strives to have a good mix of military services represented among the three assignees.

Since Agency revitalization (and historically), the Selective Service System has employed military personnel in key assignments, and the Region Directors' jobs have always been filled by senior military officers. This promotes better rapport with each of the Armed Forces, the Agency's primary "clients" upon mobilization. It also gives the hundreds of assigned RFOs a uniformed "boss" at Region Headquarters. There is no cost to the individual services for these high-profile assignments because Selective Service reimburses the military services for all pay and benefits associated with assigning full-time officers at Region Headquarters. Furthermore, these military positions are not counted against the active duty "end strength," or manpower ceilings of the services.

REGISTRATION

Registrants complete a registration form (SSS Form 1) at any U.S. post office, or at any U.S. embassy/consulate overseas. A postal clerk or embassy/consular official reviews information on the form, checks appropriate identification statement and date stamps the forms.

Post offices mail the completed registration forms to the Selective Service Data Management Center (DMC) on a weekly basis. A Registration Report (SSS Form 6) is attached with each submission and indicates the post office name, reporting date, and number of forms attached.

Forms are received at the DMC, and batched into groups of approximately 1600. Each batch has a number which indicates the year and week of receipt and the batch sequence, and each document within the batch is assigned a unique sequence number. The resulting ten-digit Document Locator Number, which is stamped on the individual form, remains that form's identifier throughout the time the registrant's information is retained.

The information recorded on the registration form is entered into the computer system through data entry terminals.

A number of computer edits are performed to check for errors in the registrant's information. If no errors are found, the information is processed to the Master File and a Selective Service Number is assigned.

If an error is detected in the registrant's information, the data is printed on an error report, researched, and corrected by a clerk. Computer generated letters are sent to registrants whose Registration Form contains an omission or error. The responses to these letters are entered into the system to correct an error or delete information from the record (if the individual is not required to register). After errors are corrected, the information is processed to the Master File and a Selective Service Number is assigned.

Once a registrant record has been established on the Master File and a Selective Service Number is assigned, an acknowledgment letter (SSS Form 3) is mailed to the individual.

A monthly listing is prepared on microfiche of all registrants on the Master File and Error File. The registrants on the Master File may be accessed in alphabetical or Selective Service Number sequence. The registrants on the Error File do not yet have a Selective Service Number, but may be accessed in alphabetical sequences.

The Document Locator Number that was stamped on the Form 1 is retained on all computer files so that the original registration form, or copy, may be retrieved. (After the computer processing is completed, the original forms are microfilmed and then destroyed. The Document Locator Number is used to access the microfilm.)



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SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SELECTIVE SERVICE

The law under which the Selective Service System operates is the Military Selective Service Act. (Act of June 24, 1948, c. 625, 62 Stat. 604, as amended; 50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.). Selective Service Regulations are contained in Part 1600 of Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations (32 CFR 1600).

The periodic reports of the Director of Selective Service to the Congress, published annually from 1948 to 1967 and semiannually thereafter, discuss the current activities of the Agency. These reports are usually available in the government documents section of major libraries. Detailed information concerning current Selective Service procedures is available from the Selective Service Public Affairs Office.

Following is a list of books dealing with various aspects of Selective Service and the draft during various periods of history. This is only a partial listing and is not meant as a definitive bibliography, nor as an endorsement for any of the publications.

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Tax, Sol, editor, The Draft: A Handbook of Facts and Alternatives. The University of Chicago Press, 1967.

STATE LEGISLATION

Many states have passed legislation that supports the federal Selective Service System registration requirement. Generally, these state laws require that a man be registered (or prove he is exempt from the requirement) before he can receive state student financial assistance or be eligible for state government jobs.

The state laws mirror, reinforce or strengthen two federal laws: The Solomon Amendment added Section 12 (f) to the Military Selective Service Act in September 1982. Male students who have a requirement to register with Selective Service must satisfy that requirement as an eligibility precondition for receipt of Title IV federal student financial aid. Title IV aid includes such need-based programs as Guaranteed Student Loans and Pell Grants. In November 1985, the Thurmond Amendment to the Defense Authorization Act established Title 5, U.S. Code, Section 3328, which requires Selective Service System registration (of men who are required to register) as a prerequisite for appointment to most federal jobs. The effect of these Amendments is twofold. They increase public awareness of the registration requirement and ensure that recipients of public funds are in compliance with federal law.

To date, 21 states have passed what is often called "Solomon-like" or "Thurmond-like" legislation, linking a man's eligibility for state-funded higher education benefits and state jobs to the federal registration requirement. A few states have taken the objectives of the federal legislation even further by adding additional requirements. Here is a listing of the state laws and what they provide:

Alabama: Requires Selective Service registration to be eligible to enter institutions of higher learning. Registration is also required as a prerequisite for state employment and promotion. This legislation was signed by Governor Guy Hunt in 1991 and becomes effective Jan. 1, 1992.

Arizona: Requires registration as a condition for state financial aid for school as well as a precondition for state employment. Signed by Governor Rose Mofford in 1988.

Arkansas: Requires registration as a condition for receiving a state education loan, scholarship, or other state financial assistance. Signed into law by Governor Bill Clinton on Feb. 22, 1989. Also, requires compliance with the Military Selective Service Act as a precondition for state employment or enrollment in a public institution of higher learning. Signed by Governor Huckabee in 1997

Colorado: Requires statement of compliance from male students born after Dec. 31, 1959 before they are allowed to enroll at a state supported college or university. Governor Dick Lamm allowed bill to become law in 1987.

California: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Signed into law by Governor Pete Wilson in 1997.

Delaware: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state employment and state student financial aid. Signed by Governor Michael N. Castle in 1986.

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Florida: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Signed by Governor Bob Graham in 1985. A law signed by Governor Bob Martinez in 1988 requires registration as a precondition for state employment.

Georgia: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Signed by Governor Joe Frank Harris in 1986.

Illinois: Enacted two pieces of legislation: One requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid and the other requires registration as a precondition for state employment. Governor James Thompson signed these in 1984 and 1989, respectively.

Kentucky: State regulations require a statement of Selective Service registration status as a precondition for participating in the state educational loan program.

Louisiana: Enacted two pieces of legislation. One requires Selective Service registration for entry to any state school and the other requires registration as a precondition for state employment. Governor Edwin Edwards signed these bills in 1985 and 1986 respectively.

Maine: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Signed by Governor John McKernan in 1987.

Massachusetts: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Governor Michael Dukakis allowed the bill to become law in 1984.

Mississippi: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Governor William Allain signed this legislation in 1984.

New Jersey: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Governor Christine Todd Whitman signed this legislation in 1997.

North Carolina: Enacted two pieces of legislation: One requires Selective Service registration for certain veterans' dependents financial aid programs and the other requires registration as a precondition for state employment and state educational assistance. Governor James Martin signed these bills in 1985 and 1989.

North Dakota: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for student financial aid. Signed by Governor George Sinner in 1987.

Ohio: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Requires any resident male not registered with Selective Service to pay out of state tuition rate. Governor Richard Celeste allowed this bill to become law in 1986.

Oklahoma: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Signed by Governor Henry Bellmon in 1987.

South Dakota: Requires Selective Service registration before acceptance to all state schools and as a precondition to state employment. Signed by Governor George S. Mickelson in 1988.

Tennessee: Requires Selective Service registration before acceptance to all state schools. Signed by Governor Lamar Alexander in 1984. Registration is also required as a precondition for state employment. Governor Ned McWherter signed this legislation in 1987.

Texas: Requires men to be in compliance with the registration requirement to be eligible for state student financial assistance. The law was passed in 1997.

Utah: Requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid. Signed by Governor Michael O. Leavitt in March 1998.

SURVIVING SONS

Provisions regarding the survivors of veterans were written into Selective Service law after World War II. Details have varied over the years, but the basic premise remains the same; where a family member has been lost as a result of military service, the remaining family members should be protected insofar as possible.

It is important to keep in mind that the provisions are directly related to service-connected deaths. **The mere fact that a man is the only child or only son does not qualify him for consideration - he must be the survivor of one who died as a result of military service.**

The present law provides a peacetime exemption for anyone whose parent or sibling was killed in action, died in line of duty, or died later as a result of disease or injury incurred in line of duty while serving in the armed forces of the United States. Also included are those whose parent or sibling is in a captured or missing status as a result of service in the armed forces during any period of time. This is known as the "surviving son or brother" provision. A man does not have to be the only surviving son in order to qualify; if there are four sons in a family and one dies in the line of duty, the remaining three would qualify for surviving son or brother status under the present law.

The surviving son or brother provision is applicable only in peacetime. It does not apply in time of war or national emergency declared by the Congress.

The original law, passed in 1948, exempted the sole surviving son of a family where one or more sons or daughters died as a result of military service. No restriction existed at that time to limit the exemption to peacetime. The provision was intended to protect families which had lost a member in World War II.

In 1964, recognizing that sons of World War II veterans were reaching draft age, Congress changed the law to include the sole surviving son of a family where the father, or one or more sons or daughters, died as a result of military service. At this time the peacetime-only restriction was also added to the law.

A further change was made in 1971, expanding the exemption to any son, not necessarily the sole surviving son, of a family where the father, brother or sister died as a result of military service. This provision was recently expanded to include mothers.



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WHO MUST REGISTER

Section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act states that male U.S. citizens, and male aliens residing in the United States, who are between the ages of 18 and 26 are required to register in a manner prescribed by proclamation of the President. The proclamation under which registration is presently required was signed on July 2, 1980. It provides that young men must register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

A man is exempt from registering while he is on full-time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. Cadets and midshipmen at the service academies are included in the exemption. Members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces not on full-time active duty must register unless they have reached age 26 or are already registered.

Lawfully admitted nonimmigrant aliens (for example, those on visitor or student visas and members of diplomatic or trade missions and their families) are not required to register. Parolees and refugees who are aliens residing in this country must register.

Those who are unable to register on schedule due to circumstances beyond their control—for example, those who are hospitalized, institutionalized or incarcerated—do not have to register until they are released. After release, they have 30 days in which to register. Handicapped men who live at home must register if they are reasonably able to leave the home and go into a public place. A friend or relative may help a handicapped man fill out the form if he is unable to do so by himself.

The fact that a man is required to register does not mean that he is certain to be drafted. If Congress should authorize a draft, a registrant within the group subject to induction would have his eligibility for service determined, based on his individual situation at that time.

Questions regarding an individual's status and the requirement to register, can be answered by, writing the Registration Information Office, P.O. Box 94638, Palatine, Illinois 60094-4638, or by calling 847-688-6888.



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WOMEN AND THE DRAFT

Why the Selective Service System only requires males to register:

THE LAW

Our nation only registers men. This has always been the case. Selective Service law as it presently is written refers specifically to "male persons" in stating who must register and who could be subject to a draft. Therefore, Selective Service procedures do not apply to women. In order for women to be required to register with Selective Service, Congress would have to change the wording of the law.

THE SUPREME COURT

The constitutionality of excluding women was tested in the courts. A Supreme Court decision in 1981, *Rostker v. Goldberg*, held that registering only men did not violate the due process clause of the Constitution.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

At President Clinton's request, the Department of Defense reviewed this issue in 1994. DoD noted that America's prior drafts were used to supply adequate numbers of Army ground combat troops. Because women are excluded by policy from front line combat positions, excluding them from the draft process remains justifiable in DoD's view. Although no conclusions were reached, DoD recognized that policies regarding women need to be reviewed periodically because the role of women in the military continues to expand.

The Selective Service System, if given the mission and additional funding, is capable of registering and drafting women with its existing infrastructure.



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